Trade prospects with China

188. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are bright prospects for trade with China; and

(b) if so, what specific steps have been taken to improve the trade between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Bilateral trade between India and P. R. China is presently at a low level. There is considerable potential for improvement.

(b) To improve trade between India and P. R. China, a number of trade delegations, both official and business level, have been exchanged. The two countries signed a trade agreement in August 1984 under which the two Governments agreed to accord most favoured nation treatment on matters relating to bilateral trade. In November 1985, a trade protocol was signed to facilitate exchange of goods worth US $ 100-160 million between India and China during the 1986. The two countries have been participating in the trade fairs organised in China and India.

Per capita consumption of foodgrains

189. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the per captia consumption of foodgrains in the country has remained stagnant;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the food stocks with the Government have been rising every year, reaching a peak figure of 29 million tonnes; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to ensure the increased consumption of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir; it varies from year to year.

(b) Stocks of foodgrains with public agencies recorded increase during the period from 1982 to 1985 and reached peak level of 28.65 million tonnes on 1.7.1985.

(c) The monthly allocations of foodgrains for public distribution system and roller flour mills have been liberalised. In addition, foodgrains, particularly wheat, are being provided for rural employment schemes, for distribution at specially subsidised rates to the people living in tribal areas, and in welfare schemes for women and children.

Voluntary Disclosure Scheme for persons involved in excise duty evasion

190. SHRI SYED RAHMAT ALI:

SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a voluntary disclosure scheme for persons involved in excise duty evasion has been formulated by his Ministry;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the scheme; and

(c) by when it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No voluntary disclosure scheme for persons involved in excise duty evasion is being formulated.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.